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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/533,435  | 05/24/2005  | Keiji Hiroe          | 123700              | 1380             |
| 25944   | 7590        | 04/06/2007           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC<br>P.O. BOX 19928<br>ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320 |             |                      | MORROW, JASON S     |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 3612                |                  |
| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE                          | MAIL DATE   | DELIVERY MODE        |                     |                  |
| 3 MONTHS  | 04/06/2007  | PAPER                |                     |                  |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

|                              |                        |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/533,435             | HIROE ET AL.        |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | Jason S. Morrow        | 3612                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-3,8-13,15-24 and 26 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 4-7,14,25 and 27-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 May 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
      1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
      3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Priority***

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling. The step of bursting the microcapsules critical or essential to the practice of the invention, but not included in the claim(s) is not enabled by the disclosure.

See *In re Mayhew*, 527 F.2d 1229, 188 USPQ 356 (CCPA 1976). The specification makes clear that the objective of the invention is to simulate woven cloth. Without the step of bursting the microcapsules, the product produced by the method would not have a texture that simulates cloth.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 4-7, 14, 25, 27, and 28-32 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4 recites the limitation "the convex ridges or the concave grooves which extend along the longitudinal direction" in lines 1 and 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The claim never positively recites that this structure exists and it is only claimed in the alternative in claim 1 from which it depends.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the convex ridges or the concave grooves which extend along the longitudinal direction" in claims 2 and 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The claim never positively recites that this structure exists and it is only claimed in the alternative in claim 1 from which it depends.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the convex ridges or the concave grooves which extend along the lateral direction" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The claim never positively recites that this structure exists and it is only claimed in the alternative in claim 1 from which it depends.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "the convex ridges or the concave grooves which extend along the lateral direction" in lines 2 and 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The claim never positively recites that this structure exists and it is only claimed in the alternative in claim 1 from which it depends.

In claim 14, line 3, the phrase "like a curved line" is indefinite. The scope of what is claimed by the phrase is unascertainable.

In claim 25, line 26, the phrase "rubber-like elasticity" is indefinite. The scope of what is claimed by the phrase is unascertainable.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 1-3, 8-13, 15-24, and 26 are allowed.
7. Claims 4-7, 14, 25, 27, and 28-32 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tsujiguchi, Iwasa, Sakai et al., Sakuma, Aritake, Gopalan, Fujita et al., Tsuchida et al., Nagata, and Oba et al. disclose vehicle weatherstrips.
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason S. Morrow whose telephone number is (571) 272-6663. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on (571) 272-6659. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3612

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jason S. Morrow  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3612

March 30, 2007

JASON MORROW  
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

3/30/07